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COMMITTEE  
ON

BUDGET

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4608**

May 5, 2003

**JAMES P. MORAN**

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The Honorable James M. Loy  
Under Secretary of Transportation for Security  
Department of Homeland Security  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Loy:

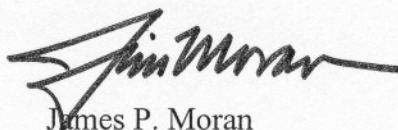
I read with great interest the statement I received May 2<sup>nd</sup> that announced the reduction of up to 6,000 Transportation Security Administration personnel assigned to this nation's commercial airports.

While I am supportive of efforts to "right size" federal agencies and can appreciate and understand that in the need to secure our airports TSA may have erred on the side of caution and over-hired, I cannot fathom the need to dismiss more than 10 percent of TSA's airport personnel. As I understand it, some of these individuals were hired as recently as four weeks ago. Such a large error in hiring raises a number of concerns with the present management. It may also cast doubt on whether the new workforce targets have indeed been set at the appropriate level.

Given your impeccable credentials as the former Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, my suspicion is that the explanation for the workforce reduction lies elsewhere. I believe the limits on discretionary spending established by Congress at the insistence of the White House may account for much of the current personnel reductions. I would appreciate any clarification you could provide on this issue. I would also like to receive a more detailed explanation on why some airports, National in particular, were targeted for large reductions, while others received little or no reduction in personnel. National Airport's proximity to the nation's capitol, the Pentagon and other buildings and landmarks of national significance makes security at this airport a paramount priority. At a time when we have made such significant progress at restoring service to National, I do not want a reduction of TSA personnel to compromise security or the present level of operations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



James P. Moran

JPM/tba